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# Etiquettes Of Visiting The Graveyard (Cemetery)

**WHY VISIT THE GRAVES ?**

Rasulullah (SallAllaahu alayhi wasallam) has said :-

*"Visit the graves, for surely, visiting the graves decreases worldly love and reminds you of the Aakhirat (Hereafter)."*

**WHEN TO VISIT THE GRAVES ?**

The graveyard can be visited on any day or night.

*"It is sunnat to visit the graves, But, to specify a time to visit the graves is bid'ah. To specify as necessary, a time for the visiting of graves was not prevalent amongst the Salf-Saleheen (Pious Predecessors) and this action is such that its origin is permissible but the specification of time makes it bid'ah." (Fatawa Azizia Vol. I P. 89).*

**HOW TO ENTER THE KABRASTAAN ?**

It is permissible to walk with one's shoes on, inside the Kabrastaan.
(Fatawa Alamgiri - Vol. I P. 234).

Duaa when entering the cemetery :

اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَآ اَهْلَ الْقُبُوْرِ
يَغْفِرُ اللّٰهُ لَنَا وَلَكُمْ اَنْتُمْ سَلَفُنَا وَنَحْنُ بِالْاَثَرِ

*"Oh inmates of the graves, salaam upon you. Allaah forgive us and you all. You left first and we will be coming later."*

**Or**

اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ اَهْلَ الدِّيَارِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَاِنَّآ
اِنْ شَآءَ اللّٰهُ بِكُمْ لَاحِقُوْنَ نَسْئَلُ اللّٰهَ لَنَا وَلَكُمُ الْعَافِيَةَ ط

*"Oh Muslims residing here, salaams upon you. By the will of Allaah we will also be coming to you. We seek safety for us and for you." (Muslim)*

### HOW TO BEHAVE INSIDE THE KABRASTAAN ?

1) Move from the footside to the headside of the grave, and stand making duaa. If one desires to sit, then one may do so as per one's relationship with the deceased, (that is, near or far). *(Ahsanul-Fatawa, Vol. 4 Pg. 212).*
2) Pouring water over a grave in order to stabilize it, is praiseworthy, but to do so with the belief that it is essential or will earn a specific reward, is a Bid'ah (innovation) and therefore sinful. *(Ahsanul Fatawa, Vol. 4 Pg. 224).*
3) Do not engage in any actions in the Kabrastaan, which are not proven in the Blessed, Sanctioned and Beautiful Deen of Al-Islaam.

### TO RAISE THE HANDS OR NOT ?

1) It is desirable to raise the hands while making duaa, for this is amongst the etiquettes of duaa as proven from Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu alayhi wasallam). *(Muslim - Vol. 1 Pg 313) and (Fatawa Rahimiya Vol. 5 - Pg 108/9).*
2) It is permissible to raise the hands and make duaa whilst visiting the grave. *(Ahsanul Fatawa, Vol. 4 Pg. 224).*
3) It is written in Imdaadul Fatawa *(Vol. 1 Pg 500),* that it is recorded in Durre Mukhtaar that it is permissible to make duaa in the Kabrastaan and it is also proper to raise the hands, for this is the normal etiquette of doing so.
4) The text of the Jurists denote permissibility of raising the hands whilst making duaa. However, if duaa is being made in front of the grave and this will create an impression, that the person making duaa is seeking from the dead, then it is prohibited to raise the hands. *(Fatawa Rahimiya, Vol. 5 - Pg. 109).*

### WHAT TO READ IN THE KABRASTAAN ?

1) It is better to make the intention for whose benefit one is doing any good action, first. However, it is also permissible to make the intention after doing the good act. *(Shaami, Vol. 1 Pg. 605).*
2) One may read ANY portion of the Qur'aan and confer the rewards upon the deceased and pray for their forgiveness. *(Kifaayatul Mufti, Vol. 4 Pg. 183).*
3) According to our knowledge, no specific surah or recitation has been authentically or reliably proven from the Ahaadith of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu alayhi wasallam). Thus one may read from whichever portion of the Qur'aan one knows. *(Sheikhul Hadith, Moulana Fazlur-Rahmaan Aazami).*
4) The reciting of Surah Ikhlaas (eleven times), and other Surahs has been recorded by Suyuti (RA) in 'Sharre - Suddur, but since these are narrated by a weak chain of narrators, one should be aware of it when doing so.

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